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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 23 October 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. PEERTHUM (Mauritius)
(Vice-President)

- Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency [14] (continued)

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Agency

(a) Draft resolution

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Peerthum (Mauritius), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 14 (continued)

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

(a) NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING THE REPORT OF THE AGENCY (A/45/371)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/45/L.9)

Mr. ZAFAR-UL-HAQ (Pakistan): I should like to begin by extending on behalf of the delegation of Pakistan our congratulations to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Hans Blix, for his comprehensive statement regarding the activities of the Agency for the year 1989. The Pakistan delegation has carefully studied the report of the IAEA for 1989. However, before proceeding to offer our comments on the report, my delegation would like to avail itself of this opportunity to commend Mr. Blix and his colleagues for their dedication to the work of the Agency and to its objectives and responsibilities.

Pakistan attaches great importance to the work and aims of the IAEA. It appreciates the assistance provided by the Agency to member States, including Pakistan, in the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, which has made a valuable contribution to the development efforts and the well-being of their people.

The imperative need of nuclear energy as a source of power has been underlined by the rapid depletion of the world's fossil fuel resources, a fast-growing menace to our environment, and disturbing signs of an impending global ecological disaster. In the case of Pakistan, our limited forest wealth in the North-West Region has been seriously ravaged by the influx of over 3 million refugees from neighbouring Afghanistan. Pakistan's energy problem has been further compounded by the crisis in the Gulf region. Our bill for oil imports alone during the current

(Mr. Zafar-Ul-Haq, Pakistan)

year has risen by approximately $1.6 billion with disastrous consequences for our budgetary and development projections and objectives.

The acuteness of the energy crisis confronting Pakistan, as well as other developing countries, is made obvious by the fact that whereas the developing countries of the world, in which two thirds of the world's population reside, account for only 16 per cent of the commercial energy consumption, the advanced countries, with less than one third of the global population, consume 84 per cent of the world's energy. If the developing countries want to escape poverty, the development of all energy resources in these countries is an essential prerequisite. Both conventional and nuclear energy needs to be harnessed to overcome the crippling shortage of energy in the developing countries.

My country appreciates the continuing efforts of the IAEA to help strengthen the infrastructure for the planning, establishment and safe operation of nuclear power projects in the developing countries through interregional and national training courses and technical co-operation projects. We should like to commend the Agency for the assistance it gives to the developing countries in assessing the role of nuclear power in their national energy plans, and in the introduction of nuclear techniques in the fields of food and agriculture and medicine and physical sciences, which is proving to be extremely useful in their efforts to achieve socio-economic development.

According to the IAEA's 1989 report, the total installed nuclear-power-generating capacity in the world increased by about 3 per cent last year. Twelve new nuclear power plants were connected to the grid in 1989, while five reactors, with a total capacity of 1370 megawatts, were permanently shut down. At the end of 1989, 426 nuclear power plants were in operation in 31 countries, generating 16.8 per cent of the world's total electricity. It is the

(Mr. Zafar-Ul-Haq, Pakistan)

sincere hope of my delegation that the developing countries will also benefit from the expansion of nuclear power and that the Agency will be able to step up its programme of assistance to the energy-deficient developing countries.

The Agency's existing safeguards system has demonstrated its reliability and effectiveness in detecting any diversion of nuclear materials to non-peaceful purposes. We have noted with satisfaction from the Director General's report that no anomaly was detected during 1989 which could indicate diversion of or misuse of nuclear material and equipment under safeguards. The Director General has concluded that

> "the nuclear material under Agency safeguards in 1989 remained in peaceful nuclear activities or was otherwise adequately accounted for."
> (A/45/371, GC(XXXIV)/915, p. 102)

The efforts of the IAEA in promoting nuclear safety world-wide are commendable. The Agency provides a forum for the international exchange of ideas on safety-related as well as many other diverse areas related to nuclear energy. The nuclear safety colloquium held every year since 1985 during the General Conference provides a rare opportunity to review and exchange ideas on current safety issues and future programmes. Pakistan recommends that this event, which has proved its usefulness, should be continued on a regular basis.

Similarly, the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) programme, which was initiated by the Agency in 1983 to assist authorities regularly in the review of operating nuclear power plants, has proved to provide a unique opportunity to benefit from the expertise and experience of others. Three such OSART missions have visited Pakistan. No departure from the standard safety procedure was observed.

(Mr. Zafar-Ul-Haq, Pakistan)

The Radiation Protection Advisory Team (RAPAT) programme of the Agency, which is designed to promote adequate radiation protection practice, will prove beneficial not only for regulatory bodies but for radiation management groups as well as radiation workers.

Systematic reporting and evaluation of safety-related events under the Incident Reporting System will prove helpful in the identification of design modification and development of improved operational procedures. Ever since this programme began, Pakistan has also been actively participating in it.

We greatly appreciate the sincere efforts being made by the Agency to extend the services of the Assessment of Safety Significant Events Teams (ASSET) to all member States. An ASSET mission visited Pakistan in September 1989. These missions will definitely contribute to the improvement of the operational safety of nuclear power plants.

We welcome the Agency's initiatives in the field of safety and radiological protection. Pakistan has already acceded to the two safety Conventions - namely, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

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(Mr. Zafar-Ul-Haq, Pakistan)

Pakistan has actively sought to promote an international agreement prohibiting attacks against all nuclear facilities. Pakistan has concluded a bilateral agreement with India to refrain from attacking each other's nuclear facilities. We believe that such agreements will enhance nuclear safety. However, the growing tendency to use the nuclear safety issue for restricting co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology is regrettable and should be avoided.

Pakistan has always adhered to and will continue to lend its fullest support to the Agency safeguards. Pakistan has time and again reaffirmed, at the highest level, its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In its endeavours to keep the world free of nuclear weapons, Pakistan has made repeated calls for a moratorium on nuclear testing. Pakistan supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace in various parts of the world. Pakistan's own proposal for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, repeatedly endorsed by the General Assembly, is designed to help keep our region free of nuclear weapons. Among various other proposals, we have offered simultaneously with India to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and accept full-scope safeguards. We have also proposed the conclusion of a regional or bilateral nuclear-test-ban agreement or the acceptance of any other non-discriminatory measures which would ensure that nuclear weapons do not enter our region and undermine our peace and security.

We believe that a proper balance should be maintained between the funds allocated for technical assistance and those provided for safeguards. The amounts allocated for technical assistance do not correspond to the urgent need of the developing countries for expansion of their nuclear-energy programmes. This trend

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has to be arrested, and a higher percentage of the budget should be provided for technical assistance. Moreover, as in the case of nuclear safeguards, the technical assistance activities of IAEA should also be financed through a predictable and assured source of funding.

I should like to take this opportunity to reaffirm, once again, Pakistan's total commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It is our earnest and sincere hope that the Agency, in keeping with its charter and mandate, will assign top priority to the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This has become all the more important, as the developing countries are confronted with increasing resistance from some States in their efforts to obtain technology for the development and advancement of their peaceful nuclear-energy programmes. The General Assembly, through its resolution 32/50, has categorically affirmed:

> "All States have the right, in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality, to develop their programme for the peaceful use of nuclear technology for economic and social development, in conformity with their priorities, interests and needs".

The same resolution also clearly states:

> "All States, without discrimination, should have access to and should be free to acquire technology, equipment and materials for the peaceful use of nuclear energy".

Pakistan believes that all States Members of the United Nations should abide by these principles, in order to check and reverse the negative trends impeding co-operation in the field of peaceful nuclear energy.

In recent years the nuclear reactor accidents have underlined the essential need for proper maintenance and repair of nuclear reactors. Yet in certain cases

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essential spare parts are not being provided for reactors even when they are under the Agency safeguards. This situation is totally unjustified and requires urgent redress. We call upon the supplier States to provide full maintenance coverage to the reactors provided by them.

Pakistan is pleased to join the consensus in support of the draft resolution on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. BATSANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Having studied the report of IAEA for 1989, which was presented by the Director General of the Agency, Mr. Blix, the Soviet delegation notes with satisfaction that this document is a traditionally weighty one which fully reflects the broad and varied activities carried out by IAEA for the benefit of the whole international community.

The Soviet Union attaches great significance to further enhancement of the effectiveness and authority of IAEA in developing inter-State co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, in the matter of monitoring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and in the matter of improving the world environmental situation. The Agency on the whole is successfully carrying out the many complex tasks before it. Here we see considerable merit in what has been done by Mr. Blix and all the staff of that organization, and we are grateful to all of them for their work.

The activities of IAEA today are being carried out in special circumstances, characterized by a clearly expressed trend towards the lessening of political and military confrontation and towards an increase in peaceful co-operation. Entering a period of peaceful development, mankind is now being released from the unnecessary burden of weapons. The elimination of Soviet and United States intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles is now close to completion. We now

(Mr. Batsnaov, USSR)

have a new and unprecedented agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on a significant reduction of offensive strategic weapons. Europe has reached full agreement on a radical reduction of its military potential and is preparing to begin work in the near future on a qualitatively different set of principles not based on force for ensuring regional security. Unquestionably this is a hopeful sign, but it would be a mistake to look at today's world simply through rose-coloured glasses.

The crisis in the Persian Gulf region has already given us a considerable number of bitter lessons, and one of them is the great importance of prohibiting the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Here the situation inspires fears which are well founded.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Mr. Shevardnadze, in the statement he made at the present session of the United Nations General Assembly said:

> "To be frank, the situation is becoming most alarming. Let us face it: cracks have appeared in the nuclear non-proliferation régime; difficulties are being encountered in expanding the zone of application of the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It is time to trigger the emergency systems and face the question in all seriousness in order to save the situation". (A/45/PV.6, p. 53)

This is not a criticism of the Agency. Rather it is a call to action, an appeal made to all States, to the entire international community. In this connection, we note that IAEA, in the light of its qualifications, is striving to react to recent events in the Persian Gulf region, and this was mentioned by Mr. Blix in his statement.

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

The beginnings of nuclear disarmament can hardly remain firm and irreversible if there is a parallel spread of nuclear weapons and if, while a whole category of missiles of the USSR and the United States is being eliminated, the same category of delivery vehicles start coming off the assembly lines in other parts of the world. The more there are States possessing weapons of mass destruction, the harder it will be to achieve the desire of peoples throughout the world for effective control over weapons, for disarmament and for reducing the threat of war. This thought, reflected in the Soviet-United States statement on problems of nuclear, chemical and missile non-proliferation, which was adopted during the meeting of the Presidents of the two countries at the end of May and beginning of June this year, is becoming increasingly timely.

That statement once again reflected decisive support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which continues to make an invaluable contribution to global and regional security and stability. Throughout the 20 years of its existence the Treaty has shown its viability and effectiveness as the main legal and political barrier to the spread of nuclear weapons. We note with satisfaction the increased number of States Parties to that Treaty and we welcome the recent decisions by Albania and Mozambique to accede to it. We expect also that South Africa's stated intention regarding accession to that Treaty will become a reality.

The Soviet Union feels that the Treaty's potential has hardly been exhausted and that the Treaty should be maintained in effect until such time as a nuclear-free world that has renounced the use of force becomes a reality. To replace it, we might have only a comprehensive treaty on prohibiting the rebirth of nuclear weapons after they have been finally and completely eliminated. That is precisely the way in which we view the question of extending the Treaty, and a decision on it has to be made in 1995.

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

The recent Fourth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has enabled us to carry out a fruitful analysis of its implementation and to come up with a number of extremely important agreements, including decisions regarding IAEA activities. We are not inclined to dramatize the Conference's ending without the adoption of a final document. We see the chief outcome of the Conference as being the fact that the States Parties to the Treaty have cast no doubt on the need to maintain it. We agree with the results of the Conference and with the assessment included in the statement made by Mr. Blix.

The discussions at the Fourth Review Conference reconfirmed that a nuclear-test ban is, in the opinion of the overwhelming majority of States, an important factor in the non-proliferation and elimination of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union has been and remains a convinced partisan of the speedy implementation of that measure. In 1989, we reviewed our nuclear testing programme and reduced the number and size of tests, and since October of last year we have not carried out any tests whatsoever. Furthermore, we are prepared to transform this year-long moratorium into a definitive and comprehensive nuclear-test ban. All that is needed is for the United States Government, unilaterally or on the basis of mutual agreement, to close down its nuclear testing programe also. On 9 October, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR appealed to the Parliaments and societies of all countries clearly to determine and define their position in favour of a complete and total ban on nuclear testing. For its part the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has already informed the Secretary-General of its position on this problem and is counting on the Parliaments of other countries to do likewise, thereby achieving a parliamentary referendum on banning nuclear testing.

At the same time we are firmly convinced that the problem of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is too important for the survival of all

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mankind to use it in regard to the resolution of other problems. Any attempt at blackmail or intimidation of the international community on non-proliferation is simply inadmissible. In advocating the reduction and final elimination of nuclear stockpiles, the USSR believes that it is important to seek all possible ways of avoiding any increase in nuclear arsenals. Our country advocates a ban on the production of fissionable materials for nuclear weapons, and we should plan to take out of operation by the year 2000 all of our reactors used to process plutonium for weapons. A ban on the production of fissionable materials could be a firm barrier to both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. Our proposal on an agreement on the non-use of nuclear materials for military purposes and materials released as a result of the reduction of nuclear arsenals and the drafting of a corresponding monitoring mechanism remains on the table. In our view, the experimental work done by the IAEA along these lines could be a concrete step towards a comprehensive system of guarantees of non-production of nuclear weapons.

The Soviet Union steadfastly attaches prime significance to the Agency's work in monitoring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and we commend the monitoring activities carried out by the IAEA. The system of safeguards worked out by the Agency is an effective means for ensuring that nuclear materials are not shifted from peaceful uses to the manufacture of nuclear weapons. In this connection we note with satisfaction that the Agency's report once again confirms that in 1989, as in all earlier years, no violations were found that would indicate that nuclear materials delivered under IAEA safeguards had been shifted to the production of nuclear weapons or the establishment of any kind of nuclear device.

The Soviet Union co-operates actively with the Agency in carrying out inspections at all peaceful nuclear installations in accordance with the agreement on the implementation of the safeguards between the USSR and the IAEA. In

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September of this year, we gave the Agency a full list of Soviet nuclear facilities so that they could be monitored by the IAEA. That list included all nuclear power plants in the Soviet Union, as well as an additional number of research reactors. In attaching great significance to enhancing the effectiveness of monitoring, our country is making its contribution to the development of safeguards by implementing a national programme of scientific and technical support for IAEA safeguards. Out of the 10 projects carried out in 1989 in our support programme, five dealt with the practical activities of the Agency itself. In order to support the Agency's safeguards the USSR gave more than 7 million roubles from 1986 to 1989, whereas for the period 1991-1992 the Soviet Union intends to give IAEA safeguards programmes monetary support in the amount of 5 million roubles of our national currency.

The IAEA report shows that the Agency is very responsive to those problems that are most timely for the world community. Among such problems we should mention the broad spectrum of tasks in nuclear and radiation safety. There are also questions of present and future technology for nuclear energy and its fuel cycle, as well as the problem of dealing with radioactive wastes.

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

The Agency should be commended for its activities in the environmental field. These are especially important, particularly with regard to the environmental problems caused by various sources of energy production. In our view, the implementation of the numerous programmes carried out by the Agency in these areas, will benefit all countries and make it possible to conserve considerable resources.

We believe that the establishment of a genuine régime for the safe development of nuclear energy necessitates an immediate decision on such problems as the prevention of attacks on nuclear facilities, the fight against nuclear terrorism and the establishment of legal regulations concerning responsibility for nuclear damage. The strengthening of international co-operation within the Agency could be a major factor in these areas.

The Chernobyl tragedy was a serious warning to all mankind, showing how defenceless mankind is in the face of the destructive force of the atom. More than four years have passed, but the situation around Chernobyl remains extremely serious. Huge efforts and vast financial and intellectual resources will be needed to eliminate the results of that accident. This morning a detailed report was given to the Assembly by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Mr. Kravchanka. We welcome the readiness of other countries, the Agency and other international organizations to assist us in this connection.

The Soviet Union is striving to provide comprehensive assistance so that the Agency can successfully carry out the tasks which lie before it. There is a constant increase in the voluntary contributions of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund of the Agency. We pay our share of voluntary contributions to that Fund fully and regularly and we ensure that major contracts with the Agency for the delivery of equipment and materials are carried out.

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

In addition to the main contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, the Soviet Union regularly assigns further resources in national currency for assistance to developing countries parties to the non-proliferation Treaty. At the last session of the General Conference of the IAEA our delegation stated that for the period 1991-1994 we would give 2 million roubles for projects of technical assistance to developing countries which are members of the Agency and parties to the non-proliferation Treaty.

In conclusion, the Soviet delegation would like once again to express its approval of the report of the Agency for 1989 and confirm its support for draft resolution A/45/L.9, which has been introduced in connection with this item.

Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria): Allow me first of all to thank the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. Hans Blix, for his lucid presentation of this year's report. This report excels in its comprehensive, yet concise, description of the Agency's activities and provides us with a welcome opportunity to commend the exemplary efficiency and effectiveness with which the Agency's competent staff, under the able guidance and leadership of the Director General, is operating.

For over three decades the Agency has, in fulfilling its mandate, played a highly useful and successful role in acting as a catalyst for the establishment of safety standards and procedures to enhance the safety of nuclear energy and in the application of safeguards. These two principal tasks of the Agency deserve the full support of the international community, whatever may be the national attitude to the use of nuclear energy for generating electrical power. Only persistent international co-operation will lead to a reduction of the dangers inherent in the use of nuclear energy. My delegation notes with satisfaction the intensive efforts of the Agency in this area of vital interest for the future of mankind.

(Mr. Hohenfellner, Austria)

Austria is not among those States which have opted for nuclear energy. This does not mean, however, that we have no opinion on the issue under consideration. I therefore wish to take the opportunity of the debate on agenda item 14 to affirm our position regarding the important role that the IAEA is playing in the life of the international community.

At the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held recently in Geneva, the Austrian delegation expressed its appreciation of the important and widening activities of the IAEA. A few weeks later, at the thirty-fourth session of the General Conference of the IAEA, the Austrian delegation stated that Austria's concern, like that of the international community as a whole, was to ensure that no nuclear or related material was used for other than peaceful purposes or in contradiction of the non-proliferation Treaty and expressed its appreciation of the Agency's indispensable activities in the field of the implementation of safeguards. Austria also recognizes the growing role of the IAEA in the field of enhancing the safety of existing reactors, shares the desire of States operating nuclear plants to make them as safe as possible and welcomes the broadening of international activities directed towards that goal.

As is well known, in its energy policy Austria has forgone the nuclear option. This policy is based on a referendum and has been set out in a law prohibiting the use of nuclear fission as a source of power production. This critical attitude towards nuclear power does not, however, diminish our appreciation of the important role the International Atomic Energy Agency is playing in a world in which nuclear power production is a matter of fact. My delegation wishes to express its satisfaction that the International Atomic Energy Agency has its headquarters in Vienna and at the excellent relationship between the Agency and the host country.

(Mr. Hohenfellner, Austria)

One of the many useful activities of the IAEA is its search for a solution to the problem of transboundary consequences of major nuclear accidents from the point of view of international liability.

Austria welcomes the progress made in the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage towards the establishment of a new, comprehensive and, we hope, universal contractual régime in this area. We envisage such a régime being established through an extensive revision of the relevant Vienna Convention. There is some agreement that under the new régime the definition of nuclear damage must be significantly expanded to include, inter alia, environmental damage as well as the cost of preventive and reinstatement measures.

Austria believes that the ongoing work to establish a new régime of international liability for nuclear damage is indeed one of the most important activities of the Agency, and it is highly appreciated by my Government. Austria will continue to contribute actively to those endeavours.

Mr. NAGAI (Japan): At the outset, I should like to express my delegation's appreciation and support for the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which the Agency's Director General, Mr. Hans Blix, introduced in his informative statement. There is no doubt that for more than 30 years the Agency has been successfully fulfilling its important mission as a universal technical organization to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy, while at the same time working to halt nuclear proliferation. My delegation wishes to reaffirm Japan's continued support for the Agency and its various programmes and activities in both aspects of its mission.

My delegation is pleased by the broad support for the Agency's programmes, demonstrated at the recent IAEA General Conference and by its adoption of resolutions on the global development of nuclear energy, particularly in the areas of nuclear safety, waste management and advanced power plants.

Global environmental problems are attracting ever greater concern. As reconfirmed at the summit meeting of the seven industrialized countries held in Houston last July, nuclear power continues to be an important component of the world's energy supply; it is also an important factor in limiting the level of gas emissions, which are a major cause of global warming. Japan supports the Agency's ongoing activities in matters relating to the environment, particularly in the areas of nuclear safety, radiological protection and nuclear waste management.

In order to promote more smoothly the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is imperative to ensure that nuclear power reactors are operated safely. It is also necessary to gain the understanding and co-operation of the public. Japan is continuing to make every effort to assure the public of the safety of its power plants, and is supporting the Agency's various activities in this area. In March of this year, for example, Japan made a special contribution to the IAEA.

(Mr. Nagai, Japan)

Moreover, this week, on 25 to 26 October, it will host, in Aomori, Japan, a regional seminar on nuclear energy, mainly for members of the media. I hope that this seminar not only will contribute to the smooth development of nuclear energy in Japan, but will also enhance public acceptance in the countries concerned.

Japan is determined to extend support, to the best of its ability, to the Agency's technical co-operation activities, which contribute greatly to the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in developing countries. Specifically, Japan will continue to increase its annual contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, in accordance with its assessment and in recognition of the importance of the Agency's activities in this field.

Ms. PELLICER (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): As in previous years, it is a great pleasure for my delegation to express its gratitude to Mr. Hans Blix, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for his detailed presentation on the Agency's activities. His statement and the annual report he has submitted to this General Assembly session, make clear the dedication and extreme competence of the Agency's administration in carrying out the important tasks entrusted to it by member States.

This is all the more important when we take into account that Mr. Blix is continuing to carry out his work despite restrictions imposed by a zero-growth budget. Hence, difficult decisions must be adopted with regard to the Agency's programmes, which are not always in keeping with the priorities of all members. My country once again expresses support for Mr. Blix and the Agency, and we emphasize our firm commitment to continue to co-operate with him and with other member States in trying to overcome the Agency's financial limitations and to strengthen the programmes which are of interest to us all.

(Ms. Pellicer, Mexico)

In the last 12 months the community of nations has been profoundly stirred by radical changes in the international structure that emerged from the last world war. All of us have undoubtedly been encouraged by the new winds of political change in important regions of the world. For example, the new policies in Eastern Europe have clearly opened up important prospects for international co-operation. In the area of nuclear energy, this new fact has brought about more effective co-operation in the area of safeguards and in the prevention of nuclear disasters and their consequences.

However, in a good part of the world, we still see circumstances which have been of constant concern to my country. No doubt, the Agency can and should continue to play a very important role in those regions.

The first circumstance is the persistence of conflicts which threaten world peace and undermine the optimism brought about by the political changes that led us to proclaim the end of the cold war. The fact is that we are still far from having solved all of those potential sources of conflict, which tend to recur. Therefore, ensuring the responsible and exclusively peaceful use of nuclear technology continues to be one of the central priorities of the IAEA.

The Agency's system of safeguards must be further strengthened and expanded, not only to more countries, but also within those countries where it already exists or where relevant agreements may be reached in future. The safeguards system should be free of political requirements or claims of privilege which merely weaken the system as a whole and endanger the security of all.

The second circumstance which continues to be of concern to my country is the persistence of problems related to economic development which have not been solved, and which could become worse in the immediate future. Once again, for example,

(Ms. Pellicer, Mexico)

we are confronted with a situation in which our development programmes are suffering from the ups and downs in the availability of traditional sources of energy. Once again, we are aware of the need to seek energy diversification seriously and responsibly so we are not subject to the spectre of uncertainty which affects our economic and social projects. With appropriate security guarantees, nuclear energy could strengthen our development programmes and protect us from the uncertainties brought about by regrettable conflicts which exist primarily in developing countries.

There is no doubt that security and the safeguards system are essential pre-conditions to the promotion of programmes of peaceful applications of nuclear technology. In this regard, the Agency has been called upon to play a central role in the quest for better economic conditions for developing countries. The contribution the Agency makes to the development of agriculture, industry, food and medicine is all the more important in the current international context.

In the report submitted by the Director General of the IAEA, one can note that the resources allocated to various technical co-operation programmes continue to be substantial. However, we believe that the Agency could do much more to meet the pressing needs felt by scores of the countries of the world. We should thus reinforce the Agency's technical co-operation programme. To do so implies going beyond increasing the number of pledges to actually fulfilling them.

(Ms. Pellicer, Mexico)

We must also eliminate the obstacles blocking developing countries' access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The economic needs we are facing are so great that there can be no doubt that it is irresponsible to go on putting up barriers for political reasons or because of groundless security or non-proliferation considerations.

Without trying to evade our responsibility to use nuclear technology exclusively for peaceful purposes, non-nuclear-weapon countries must have more support to help us reach our economic and social improvement targets. Strengthening the safeguards system should not, in this context, operate to the detriment of programmes aimed at promoting technical co-operation in agriculture and food, human health, industry and science.

We are living in times which require us to act in a decisive, committed manner to meet the pressing needs of our peoples. There can be no doubt that one of the most urgent imperatives we are facing is the need to ensure international peace and security; however, there must also be no doubt that that peace and security, if it is to be genuine and lasting, must be founded on economic development, which is a key requirement everywhere on Earth. We are convinced that the International Atomic Energy Agency will play a central role in this undertaking, and the Government of Mexico is prepared to give the Agency its resolute support.

Mr. HOU Zhitong (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation has listened carefully to the introductory statement made by Mr. Hans Blix, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on the 1989 annual report of the Agency. We are glad to see that over the past year the Agency has done a great deal of useful work and achieved satisfactory results in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and also international co-operation.

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

The first biennial technical co-operation programme, which the Agency started to implement last year, has been a good attempt at enhancing project rationality and predictability. The Agency's work in such areas as promoting safety in reactor design and operation, providing advisory services on radioactive waste disposal and strengthening safe management of radiation sources has played a positive role in the development of nuclear power. The Agency's activities relating to the assessment of the effectiveness of safeguards have contributed to increasing the credibility of safeguards, thus having a very important effect towards ensuring that nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes. I hereby wish to express our appreciation for the outstanding work carried out over the past year by Mr. Hans Blix, the Director General, and his secretariat staff.

The Chinese Government, consistently viewing the work of the Agency as important and supporting it, has worked to develop co-operative relations with the Agency and promote international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy and nuclear safety. Over the past year China has participated in the work of the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage and the meeting of experts for the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and has continued to take part in the activities of the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG). China also favours the drawing up by the Agency of a code of practice on the international transboundary movement of radioactive waste. Following the Agency's pre-OSART (Operational Safety Review Team) safety review of the construction of Qinshan nuclear power plant in April last year, at our invitation, we once again invited an Agency mission to carry out follow-up activities this year. We have also invited the Agency to review the safety of Daya Bay nuclear power plant in Guandong Province, which is being jointly funded by the mainland of China and by Hong Kong. Furthermore, China has hosted or financed six regional training courses and international symposiums, and has continued to use its

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

nuclear installations and research institutes to train personnel from countries in the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world. Chinese experts have taken part, at the Agency's invitation, in advisory or expert groups on various topics.

The main purpose of China's nuclear industry is the development of nuclear power. We have made fresh progress over the past year in nuclear power development under our policy of identifying priorities and developing nuclear power step by step. In parallel with the development of nuclear power, work on the corresponding civil nuclear fuel cycle industry is in full swing. Meanwhile, we are carrying out active research into nuclear science and technology, so that our nuclear industry can develop on a solid foundation and have good potential for further growth.

The first phase of the work on the 300 megawatt prototype reactor at the Qinshan power plant has reached the stage of hydraulic testing and commissioning. The blueprints of the 2 times 600 megawatt nuclear power plants for phase two of the Qinshan project have also been completed. Construction of the Daya Bay nuclear power plant in Guandong Province is making headway according to schedule, with the installation of the first reactor already well under way. China's total installed nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 6000 megawatts by the end of the century.

The prevention of nuclear-weapon proliferation constitutes an important aspect of the Agency's activities. The Chinese Government pursues a policy of not advocating, encouraging or engaging in nuclear-weapon proliferation, and of not helping other countries develop nuclear weapons.

On international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, our Government has adopted an active, prudent and responsible approach. As a member of the IAEA, China faithfully abides by the Agency's statute. With its nuclear exports, China makes it a requirement that the importing State should

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

accept IAEA safeguards, and we give assurances that China's nuclear imports are for peaceful purposes. China and the IAEA have signed an agreement whereby China voluntarily places some of its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards.

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

China has made its contribution to the prevention of nuclear proliferation. Not long ago the Chinese Government sent an observer delegation to the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in Geneva. This not only proved China's support for the objective of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear-weapon proliferation, but also showed the importance that China attaches to the Conference.

In the 20 years since its entry into force, the non-proliferation Treaty has produced some positive effects in the prevention of nuclear-weapon proliferation, contributing to a certain degree to, and to the maintenance of, world peace and stability. The Treaty reflects the just aspiration of numerous non-nuclear-weapon States, particularly the developing countries, to the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons and the birth of a nuclear-weapon-free world. The Chinese Government supports the three major objectives set forth in the Treaty, namely: to prevent nuclear-weapon proliferation, to promote nuclear disarmament and to facilitate the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; it considers these three objectives interrelated and inseparable. We are in favour of nuclear-weapon non-proliferation, but, even more important, we advocate the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. Only significant progress in nuclear disarmament can truly strengthen the authority of the non-proliferation régime. By the same token, the maintenance of an effective non-proliferation régime will be conducive to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

China always stands for international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We hold that the parties involved in such co-operation must institute appropriate measures to preclude the proliferation of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. This constitutes the prerequisite for smooth co-operation. However, such non-proliferation measures should not be

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

used to restrict or hamper any country's normal peaceful nuclear activities and international co-operation. We are confident that the Agency will make fresh efforts to continue its support of all the basic objectives laid down in the Treaty.

China adheres to its fundamental policy of reform and opening to the outside world and pursues an independent foreign policy of peace. We have held all along that the cause of maintaining world peace and promoting development needs international co-operation and represents the demand of our time. In the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy China will, as always, develop co-operative relations with the IAEA and make new contributions to the strengthening of co-operation among all countries on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and equality and mutual benefit.

The Chinese delegation commends the IAEA's work over the past year and wishes to express its appreciation of the annual report, which is an appropriate reflection of the Agency's work. We shall, therefore, support draft resolution A/45/L.9.

Mr. MALONE (Canada): It gives me great pleasure to welcome the report of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Dr. Hans Blix, to this Assembly and to reiterate my Government's approval of the Agency's annual report for 1989.

My Government had the opportunity to welcome Dr. Blix on an official visit to Canada last week. During his visit, Dr. Blix had discussions with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister of External Relations and International Development, as well as with senior officials of Government, nuclear regulators, the nuclear industry and power utilities. Our talks with Dr. Blix, covering many of the same issues as he raised in his statement to the Assembly, were wide-ranging and very fruitful. All who met Dr. Blix agreed that the United

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Nations system is fortunate to have a statesman of his ability and vision at the head of one of its agencies.

The Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) saw a number of important achievements which represent real progress in the field of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, notwithstanding the fact that a formal consensus on a final document did not emerge from the Conference. Canada was pleased that the parties agreed to urge all non-nuclear-weapon States which have not yet done so to make an international, legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and to accept IAEA safeguards on all their peaceful nuclear activities, both current and future, to verify compliance with that commitment.

Main Committee II of the Conference agreed on language further to urge the nuclear supplier States to require full scope safeguards on new supply arrangements. These requirements have been at the centre of Canadian nuclear export policy for many years. My Government also places importance on the recommendation by the NPT Review Conference that, in the event of questions arising about the commitment of any State party to the non-proliferation objectives of the Treaty, the IAEA should not hesitate to take full advantage of its rights, including the use of special inspection. My Government would welcome an early study by the Agency of the possible scope, application and procedures of such inspection.

Canada was also pleased to learn from the annual report that in 1989, as in previous years, the secretariat did not detect any event which would indicate the diversion of a significant amount of nuclear material and concluded that the nuclear material under Agency safeguards in 1989 remained in peaceful nuclear activities.

(Mr. Malone, Canada)

The Director General is to be commended on the improvements and savings the International Atomic Energy Agency has achieved in the implementation of safeguards. At the same time, my Government recognizes that the level of certain activities, notably the safeguarding of new nuclear facilities, is externally imposed upon the Agency. Canada remains committed to ensuring that the effectiveness of Agency safeguards is not compromised by budgetary pressures.

My Government has repeatedly stated its belief that the specialized and technical agencies of the United Nations system should operate free of political encumbrances. It is to the credit of Dr. Blix and the IAEA that his Agency is largely free of such debate. We welcome his efforts to keep his Agency's activities on such questions within the bounds of the IAEA's mandate. He has brought fresh ideas to this Assembly which we will wish to bear in mind in our own deliberations of these issues. We find particularly timely Dr. Blix's remarks on the role of the IAEA safeguards system as a model for new systems of impartial international verification.

We commend Dr. Blix's grasp of the complex and difficult interrelationships on global warming and energy policies. I must repeat a comment my delegation made to the Assembly last year in which we noted that Dr. Blix's comments have highlighted the importance of fixing a locus within the United Nations system for the consideration of energy questions. He has also underlined the importance of much closer policy co-ordination and collaboration between energy and environmental planners if we are to achieve significant progress in reducing the degradation of the environment caused by energy consumption. My Government is committed to achieving the maximum possible savings of energy through increased efficiency and conservation, but we recognize that, as Dr. Blix has pointed out, on the world-wide level agreement on restrictions on the use of energy will be hard to attain as

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energy is a key factor in economic development. No one will claim that nuclear power is a panacea for the world's energy problems, but it is important to recognize its role as an energy source which emits neither acid rain nor greenhouse gases. In recognition of the role which nuclear power can play in a diversified energy strategy, my Government recently announced its intention to retain the nuclear energy option for Canada.

Dr. Blix has correctly pointed out that the main reasons for public resistance to a continued and expanded use of nuclear power lie in concern about accidents and about the disposal of radioactive waste. He has outlined the valuable work which the International Atomic Energy Agency is carrying out in both these areas.

(Mr. Malone, Canada)

Dr. Blix has outlined to us the ambitious programme which his Agency is co-ordinating to offer an expert and impartial analysis of the radiological consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. My Government has recognized the valuable contribution of the IAEA to the promotion of nuclear safety and radiation protection through its many and varied technical programmes, and Canada is pleased to make major contributions in all these areas.

Canada was pleased to support the adoption by the IAEA General Conference of a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, which was negotiated by an expert working group chaired by an official of Canada's Atomic Energy Control Board. We hope that the General Assembly will also welcome the adoption of the Code.

As Dr. Blix has pointed out to us, we are deeply concerned that an Agency so widely supported and respected by all members, large and small contributors alike, should have had to face significant cash crises in three of the past four years. In Canadian statements to the Board of Governors and the General Conference of the IAEA, my Government urged all member States, as a tangible measure of their support for the Agency, to fulfil their obligations to it in full and on time. Canada will support measures such as an adequate working capital fund to provide the Agency with the tools that will enable it to discharge its mandate effectively.

I wish to conclude this statement by looking further ahead for a moment. As we move into the last decade of the twentieth century the Agency faces serious challenges on several fronts: the budgetary constraints under which it continues to operate; the problem of public concern over nuclear safety; devastating threats to the health of the world's environment; and the growing responsibilities of the Agency concerning the nuclear non-proliferation régime. All this is taking place against a background of unprecedented changes in the field of international relations.

(Mr. Malone, Canada)

In the light of all these factors the role of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy takes on even greater importance. I wish to reaffirm Canada's strong and continuing support for the vital work of the Agency and for achieving the crucial objective of ensuring the benefit to the entire world community of the future development of nuclear energy.

Mr. MGBOKWERE (Nigeria): My delegation has read with great interest the information on the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency contained in the 1989 annual report of the Agency to the General Assembly.

I should like to thank warmly the Director General of the Agency, Dr. Hans Blix, for the valuable report and his lucid statement, which cover major issues relevant to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Nigeria attaches the utmost importance to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard we recognize the vital importance of nuclear science and technology in various facets of modern life and the great potential it holds for the future. We would therefore like to acknowledge with appreciation the successful operation of the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme, as detailed in the report, in the power and non-power uses of nuclear energy, especially in food and agriculture, mining, water resources, medicine and industry. We are also impressed by the training courses and seminars conducted by the Agency, particularly in the area of nuclear applications. We welcome the steps the Agency has taken to establish a nuclear instrumentation network in Africa.

In all, we are pleased that the Agency's activities in nuclear applications have continued to respond to the needs of the majority of the developing countries, which may not, in the foreseeable future, be in a position to avail themselves of

(Mr. Mgbokwere, Nigeria)

the benefits of nuclear power. We wish, therefore, to call for increased contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund and extrabudgetary resources.

We are encouraged by the achievements through the Regional Co-operative Agreements for Asia and for Latin America, particularly in the implementation of regional projects. In this connection we are thankful to the Agency for its invaluable contribution in putting in place the African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training relating to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) which was approved by the Board of Governors last February. We are pleased that the first inaugural meeting of the representatives of AFRA, held last month in Cairo, was able to recommend seven projects for implementation, including projects on nuclear instrumentation, radioactive waste management, food irradiation and nuclear information. We welcome the participation of the United States of America, France and Japan in that conference. It remains our hope that AFRA will receive the necessary support from donor countries in order to enable it to contribute to Africa's development in nuclear science and technology.

We have noted with interest the activities of the Agency in the area of safeguards. Nigeria firmly supports the continued strengthening of the safeguards system to enable the IAEA fully to discharge its international legal obligations pursuant to safeguards agreements. In this connection we are conscious of the key role the IAEA safeguards play in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and of their contribution to global security. We therefore commend the Agency's efforts in 1989 to find ways further to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of safeguards, in view of the increasing number and complexity of nuclear facilities and quantities of nuclear materials to be safeguarded.

(Mr. Mgbokwere, Nigeria)

We fully share the view that in the coming years the international community will have to face the challenge of ensuring that all nuclear installations world wide are safe and well-regulated and pose no danger to human health and environment. The challenge can only be addressed constructively and successfully through intensified international co-operative efforts. It is not in doubt that international concern today over the protection of the environment, and the deep-seated fears over nuclear safety in general, call for intensified efforts in building an international consensus on nuclear safety and radiological protection. In this regard we commend the Agency for its measures and persistent initiatives to strengthen international co-operation in matters relating to nuclear safety and radiological protection. We believe that the Conference on Nuclear Safety scheduled by the Agency for next year will contribute to and enrich international efforts aimed at achieving the highest levels of safety.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Director General for the urgency with which he addressed the issue of transboundary movement of radioactive waste. We welcome the adoption by the IAEA General Conference last September of a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste elaborated by the group of experts. Nigeria sees the Code as a useful mechanism to control international transboundary movement of radioactive waste pending the future elaboration of a convention on the subject. We are aware that such a convention will take time to materialize. We therefore regard the Code as a necessary first step in the process of elaborating a legally binding instrument to control international transboundary movement of radioactive waste.

Although the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons failed to adopt a final declaration, it is noteworthy that the Agency was commended by the Conference for its safeguards

(Mr. Mgbokwere, Nigeria)

system, its technical co-operation programme and its work in the field of nuclear safety. It is a well-deserved commendation, in which my delegation fully shares.

The 1989 annual report before us shows that the Agency has performed remarkably well. The Agency continues to make untiring efforts, in an environment of zero real growth, to improve its efficiency and effectiveness in the preparation and implementation of its programme. It is essential that the Agency's activities, which continue to grow inexorably, should not be allowed to be hamstrung for lack of resources. With these remarks, my delegation supports draft resolution A/45/L.9 on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. ZLENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): The report submitted to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on its work in 1989 contains detailed information concerning the activities of this important international organization.

In the period under review the IAEA was operating against a background of expanding East-West dialogue which, in turn, was having an overall beneficial effect on the political life of the world community.

The changing political situation in the world holds out the hope that humanity will be able to approach the twenty-first century leaving the cold war and all-out controntation far behind.

We are gratified to note that our sentiment in this regard is consonant with the opinions and conclusions formulated in a recent article by the IAEA Director General, Mr. Hans Blix, who wrote that:

"the new East-West relationship leads to drastic improvements in the international climate by creating opportunities for broader co-operation and calls for a more ample and efficient use of international organizations".

These words sound all the more relevant when articulated by the leader of an organization designed to promote international co-operation in the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to monitor the application of its safeguards, to render practical assistance to developing countries and to provide information and technical services.

The Ukrainian delegation commends the IAEA for its role in implementing safeguards against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. At present this principle progressively becomes materialized as a universal legal and moral norm, as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) assumes ever greater

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

significance as a factor in achieving further effective nuclear disarmament. This was demonstrated by the outcome of the NPT Fourth Review Conference held recently in Geneva.

The Conference was the first of its kind to be attended by an observer delegation of the Ukrainian SSR, which thus showed its willingness to become more active in strengthening the non-proliferation régime. The Declaration of State Sovereignty, adopted by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on 16 June last, announces the Ukraine's intention to become in the future a permanently neutral State which will stay out of military alliances and abide by the three non-nuclear principles, namely: not to accept, not to produce and not to acquire nuclear weapons.

We are prepared to do our best to enhance the IAEA's authority as a guarantor of the implementation of the NPT and to increase the effectiveness of its system of safeguards with a view to extending it to all nuclear activities by non-nuclear-weapon States.

In calling for the preservation and further strengthening of the non-proliferation Treaty and for achieving its universality, the Ukrainian SSR believes that, as further progress is made towards genuine nuclear disarmament, this Treaty could be superseded by a comprehensive agreement on the non-reintroduction of nuclear weapons after their final and complete elimination from the face of the Earth.

The first steps towards a comprehensive system of safeguards against the reintroduction of any such weapons will be taken when agreements are reached on banning the production of fissionable materials for nuclear weapons and on the non-use for military purposes of material released as a result of the reduction of nuclear arsenals, including an appropriate verification mechanism. The IAEA has an important role to play in this area by sharing its monitoring experience and

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

participating in scientific and technological research on possible uses of such fissionable materials for peaceful purposes.

My delegation commends, too, the activities of the IAEA in other areas and its efforts to develop further and expand international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Among the IAEA activities of particular interest to the Ukraine are studies and recommendations concerning nuclear and radiation safety, radioactive waste management and the impact of nuclear facilities on the environment.

Nuclear energy is now going through the most difficult and crucial period in its history. It has become the subject of growing criticism and mounting concern - in fact, a public credibility gap. The future of nuclear energy largely depends on whether public confidence in it can be restored. The key point here is to make nuclear energy socially and environmentally acceptable and to ensure that the operation of nuclear power plants is always safe.

Our profound concern over the present state of and the prospects for the development of nuclear energy is largely associated with the tragedy experienced by our people as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Obviously, the Chernobyl technological catastrophe has been the worst of its kind and has entailed much more serious and long-term implications than initially suggested. Besides extensive material and environmental damage, the Chernobyl disaster has been psychologically devastating for the people of the Ukraine, Byelorussia and part of Russia. It shattered confidence in the safety of nuclear reactors. Despite assurances by scientists and experts that every action has been taken to prevent any recurrence of the tragedy, public opinion in the Ukraine remains opposed to the development of atomic energy. Even IAEA experts are not being given the benefit of the doubt. It is important that we take urgent action now to restore popular confidence in that highly authoritative organization and in its competence.

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

Speaking from this rostrum I wish to inform the Assembly that the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, responding to the will of the people and considering the gravity of the situation, has decided to freeze for five years the construction of new nuclear power plants on the territory of the Republic. A parliamentary resolution prohibits increasing the capacities of operational nuclear power plants in excess of the limits imposed as of 1 August 1990. Earlier on a decision was taken to phase out the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by 1995. The construction of several nuclear facilities has been suspended or moth-balled. According to its present concept of nuclear energy development, for the next 15 years the Ukraine will be using only 12 to 14 power units out of the 15 now in operation. The entire energy programme is being reviewed to meet the requirements of energy and resource conservation.

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

Since the accident at Chernobyl the Government has implemented a set of large-scale measures to mitigate the consequences of the disaster and to ensure normal living conditions for people in the affected areas. A vast scientific and industrial potential and significant human and material resources have been mobilized for these purposes. An amount of 3.6 billion roubles has been allocated for the years 1990 to 1992, primarily to protect people's health. However, a viable system of radiation protection is yet to be set up. The Parliament and the Government of the Republic are to join their efforts at the national level with those of the international community represented by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and IAEA, and to accomplish a tremendous amount of work which requires highly unconventional approaches.

The very fact of the establishment in the Republic of a Parliamentary commission on the Chernobyl accident and a governmental committee to protect the population from the effects of the Chernobyl disaster testifies to the urgency and utmost importance of the tasks at hand.

The unprecedented scale of the Chernobyl accident testifies in an ever more striking way to the fact that we are dealing with a catastrophe which, transcending national and regional boundaries, has turned into a global environmental problem requiring the constructive interaction of all members of the international community. An important step in that direction was taken when the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1990 adopted a consensus resolution on "International co-operation in mitigating and overcoming the effects of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl", which was sponsored by 63 United Nations Member States

Unanimous support for the idea of broad international co-operation, unrestricted by ideology or bloc policies, in pursuit of this noble cause has

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provided additional proof that major positive changes are taking place in international affairs and that the new political thinking and corresponding new environmental thinking are increasingly gaining ground. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have responded to our misfortune.

Particularly important for us has been the moral and ethical aspect of this response. As we move ahead to overcome the stereotypes of the past in international politics, new principles are being formulated for jointly addressing the global issues facing our civilization, which gives us reason to speak about new political thinking being complemented by new ethical thinking.

The Ukrainian delegation hopes that efforts to implement the aforementioned Economic and Social Council resolution, not least within the framework of IAEA, will follow up on the important multidimensional effort to mobilize the international community's potential for dealing with the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

My delegation notes that IAEA is taking a number of measures to solve this problem. In particular, the Agency, assisted by an international group of experts, is implementing a project for assessing the health and environmental risks posed by radiation. IAEA specialists and the Director General personally have visited the affected areas on several occasions and participated in the implementation of concrete measures to minimize the consequences of the disaster. We are looking forward to receiving the findings of the experts who have been working to evaluate the concept of safety for the inhabitants of contaminated areas.

The agreement to set up an international research centre at the Chernobyl nuclear facility, signed during the recent IAEA General Conference, provides a basis for our further co-operation with the Agency. The Ukrainian SSR, a party to this agreement, will offer other countries and international organizations every opportunity for extensive research on a bilateral or multilateral basis.

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

During the General Conference the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR supported the IAEA programme and budget for 1991, which, we believe, adequately takes care of the priority areas of the Agency's activities. We expressed ourselves as being in favour of further efforts in such fields as nuclear energy and the nuclear fuel cycle, controlled thermonuclear fusion, safety and protection against radiation, the application of nuclear methods in various fields and co-operation within the framework of the International Nuclear Information System.

We also support the Agency's technical assistance to developing countries. The Ukrainian SSR makes voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund and participates in the implementation of the Agency's programmes in this area.

In conclusion, I hope that, on the basis of the discussions during this General Assembly session, the IAEA will seek to enhance the effectiveness of its work with a view to developing broad international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. For its part, the Ukrainian SSR, which is at present a member of the Agency's Board of Governors, will do its utmost to promote these efforts.

Mr. BUHOARA (Romania): It is a great pleasure for me to express the Romanian Government's high appreciation of the outstanding contribution of Mr. Blix, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to the high prestige that the organization enjoys today throughout the world. The Romanian authorities particularly appreciate the visit which the Director General made to my country soon after the December Revolution and which represents a genuine landmark for the further development of the co-operation between Romania and the Agency.

(Mr. Buhoara, Romania)

At this stage, when Romania is taking fundamental decisions regarding its future economic and social development, great emphasis is being placed on the development of nuclear power and on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in general. We are pleased to state that Romania benefits in this field from fruitful co-operation with several countries and in particular with Canada.

We hope that a more significant contribution to the implementation of our programmes will be achieved through active co-operation with IAEA. Romania is most grateful to IAEA, whose activities enjoy the complete support of the Romanian Government, and it is ready to continue to promote the existing co-operation in all respects.

(Mr. Buhoara, Romania)

In his important statement today the Director General outlined the main activities of the Agency and reported on both the progress made by the Agency and the urgent tasks that it is faced with in discharging its responsibilities. I would like to refer briefly to some of these issues.

My country strongly supports the Agency's safeguards programme as a major contribution to the prevention of access to nuclear materials, equipment and technology for other than peaceful purposes. It is our considered view that the IAEA's safeguards, as well as other international agreements in the field of nuclear transfers, must, as part of the non-proliferation régime, operate efficiently. This is of crucial importance as long as the international community faces the risk of new actors emerging in the nuclear arena.

Romania is fulfilling in good faith all the obligations it has assumed under the non-proliferation Treaty and multilateral or bilateral agreements, and is co-operating with other States in efforts to achieve the non-proliferation objective. In this context, soon after the December revolution the Romanian Government took a number of important actions, to which my delegation will refer tomorrow in its statement in the First Committee.

Other vital areas of the IAEA's activities to which Romania attaches particular importance are those of nuclear safety, quality assurance, the licensing process, radiological protection and training of operating staff. It goes without saying that my country attaches the utmost importance to technical assistance and co-operation and other promotional activities of the Agency, and above all to those concerning the transfer of technology and human resources development in such key areas of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

At the same time, Romania is highly appreciative of technical assistance by the Agency in broadening the range of utilization of nuclear applications in agriculture, industry, medicine, biology, hydrology and research.

(Mr. Buhoara, Romania)

It is abundantly clear that confidence in nuclear energy would be enhanced by ensuring a high level of safety standards related to its application. It is therefore crucial that a concerted effort be made by Governments and international organizations, in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency. We welcome the Director General's remarks on this issue in his statement today.

Over the years the Agency has played an active role in setting up groups of experts to review, assess and upgrade safety requirements and codes of practice and to disseminate the practical experience gained.

Among its valuable initiatives in safety-related topics, we welcome the Agency's readiness to become more active in reviewing the level of safety in older types of reactors. For obvious reasons my country is particularly interested in the IAEA's initiative regarding this review, beginning with the older VVER reactor. The Romanian authorities have expressed their willingness to participate in this valuable project with all expertise accumulated, including seismological input data and seismic engineering. During the recent session of the General Conference of the Agency Romania appealed to all member States to participate in and contribute generously to the Agency's remarkable initiative aimed at diminishing the risks associated with older reactors and thus making an important contribution towards restoring confidence in nuclear power.

We also fully support IAEA efforts to draft specific rules governing nuclear activities, such as those on liability for nuclear damage. However, other topics of nuclear international law need to be settled. I refer in particular to the need for a legal instrument to prevent, or at least minimize, the risk of radioactive dispersion over State borders.

Just as the international community now has a solid legal framework regarding non-proliferation, so it is important for all States and for the very future of nuclear power to work out a comparable framework in the field of nuclear safety.

(Mr. Buhoara, Romania)

It would be a new symbol of the deep changes taking place in the world if the community of nations were finally to realize that the non-proliferation régime and international care for nuclear safety are both in the vital interest of mankind. We believe that it is this spirit of mutuality of interests and co-operation which is the basis for the International Atomic Energy Agency, that must prevail in the years to come.

Mr. STEIN (United States of America): The United States wishes to express its strong support for the draft resolution before us on the 1989 annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We commend Director General Blix and the Agency's secretariat for the diligence and commitment which they have demonstrated once again in this review and summary of the IAEA's activities.

As we begin the decade of the 1990s, the world has entered a period of significant change in the international system, with strong challenges to international peace and stability. There have been meaningful and largely peaceful movements towards the restoration of democracy and the development of market economies in central and eastern Europe. At the same time, recent events in the Middle East and in the Gulf area demonstrate increased uncertainty, instability and conflict in that region.

Under such conditions of change and uncertainty, we must continue our strong resolve to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, while facilitating the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We look to the IAEA to continue its vital and traditional institutional role at the centre of international efforts to achieve these objectives. The Agency's unique safeguards programme is an indispensable element in global efforts to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons. This programme deserves the unwavering commitment and support of all IAEA members, especially in light of the predicted substantial expansion of civil nuclear

(Mr. Stein, United States)

facilities in this decade. In addition we commend the IAEA's effective programmes of technical assistance to promote peaceful application of nuclear technology. Towards these ends, the United States pledges to maintain its strong and active support for this important Agency.

The IAEA also has much to offer in meeting the world's needs for safe and environmentally sound sources of energy. The Agency will continue to be a primary source of advice and assistance to countries seeking to develop clean energy resources for sustainable development. As the Director General has observed, nuclear energy offers a safe, reliable and environmentally compatible means of enhancing energy supplies while at the same reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lessening the threat of global warming.

(Mr. Stein, United States)

Agency programmes to improve operational nuclear safety and to promote measures for the safe, long-term and environmentally sound disposal of nuclear wastes can advance public acceptance of nuclear technology by addressing these important concerns.

The annual report for 1989 was recently approved by the IAEA's General Conference. Once again the Agency was able to affirm that in the application of Agency safeguards there were no diversions of nuclear materials to non-peaceful uses. This is a critical conclusion in these changing times. In this context we firmly support IAEA efforts to examine the issue of the widespread application of safeguards to countries in areas of regional tensions. We continue to believe that all countries with nuclear capabilities should open all of their peaceful nuclear facilities to international safeguards.

The Agency's effective system of verifiable safeguards and assurances against diversions to non-peaceful use is the foundation of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In our view, the Agency's work in the non-proliferation area will become even more critical and these responsibilities must continue to be the Agency's first priority, commanding the unwavering commitment and support of all members of the international community.

Although nuclear safety is mainly a national responsibility, the IAEA provides valuable advice and assistance in this area and facilitates international co-operation. We note the report's mention of the conclusion of an agreement between the IAEA and the World Association of Nuclear Operators establishing co-operation in the area of improved plant operational safety. We believe the Agency's current efforts to assess the radiological consequences of the accident at Chernobyl and to evaluate the effectiveness of the steps taken in response to the

(Mr. Stein, United States)

accident can provide a valuable body of information for future use. We trust that the results of this assessment will provide a sound basis for decisions in the future.

The Agency has traditionally taken an active role in promoting the safe and environmentally sound disposal of radioactive waste. Most recently in this area, the General Conference adopted a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste.

The annual report showed a modest growth in the use of nuclear power as 12 more nuclear power plants came on line in several countries. Nearly 17 per cent of the world's electricity generation was from nuclear sources in 1989. This figure is likely to increase as countries seek to provide additional and environmentally acceptable sources of energy.

We are pleased to see the continuing growth in the Agency's technical co-operation and assistance programmes. Total resources for these programmes increased nearly 10 per cent in 1989, largely owing to the flexibility provided by voluntary contributions. For many of the Agency's members the application of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture, the environment and related areas offers the greatest possibilities for making the benefits of the peaceful atom immediately available to their peoples. For example, we are pleased to note in this area that the Agency is contributing its expertise to a major programme under way for the eradication of the new world screwworm. This pest is posing a serious threat to all warm-blooded animals in North Africa and in the Mediterranean Basin. The programme utilizes sterilization techniques originally developed and successfully employed in North America.

We also note that the growth in regional co-operation, previously cited, in

(Mr. Stein, United States)

Asia and Latin America took an important step forward in another geographical region with the conclusion of the proposed text of a co-operative agreement for member States in the African region.

In his address to the Assembly Director General Blix has pointed to the critical role of energy sources and energy policies in efforts to abate world-wide environmental degradation. Efforts to promote expansion of the use of nuclear energy as a safe and environmentally acceptable contribution to meeting energy needs can be successful only if the security of safeguards and safety is assured. We wish the Agency well in these tasks.

Mr. TRAXLER (Italy): Allow me, first of all, to express, on behalf of the States members of the European Community, our thanks to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the quality of the Agency's annual report, for 1989, and for his statement, in which additional information was given on the most recent developments in the Agency's activities.

The role of the Agency as promoter of international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy and, at the same time, as verifier of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is fully appreciated and supported by the twelve States members of the Community. The interest of the Twelve in the Agency's activities is amply testified to by the numerous initiatives proposed by them and now being carried out as part of its programmes. Among these initiatives, the Twelve wish to recall the convening of a Conference on nuclear safety scheduled for September next year, and the adoption by the General Conference last September, by consensus, of a resolution on measures to strengthen international co-operation in matters relating to nuclear safety and radiological protection, with the final aim of outlining strategies for greater and more effective global co-operation.

In this way the Conference on Nuclear Safety will provide an opportunity for senior policy makers and experts to review the present status of nuclear safety

(Mr. Traxler, Italy)

world wide and to identify priority areas. The Community and its members States expect that it will make an important contribution to the advancement of all aspects of nuclear safety. The report of the Conference should form part of the Agency's contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

The adoption by the General Conference of a code of practice on the international transfer of radioactive wastes - in the drafting of which members of the Community played an active part - is welcomed by the Twelve.

We live in a time of strong and deeply held public opinion about ecological issues and the delicate link between the environment and energy production. The Twelve consider that analysis and discussion of nuclear energy are inseparable from a global consideration of the relationship between present and future energy policy and the protection of the environment. This is particularly true in a world where energy consumption is expected to increase considerably and where many countries do not possess the diversity of energy solutions available in Europe. It is important that this growth should not result in increased pollution, including an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and other environmental damage.

(Mr. Traxler, Italy)

One aspect of environmental conservation is the need to ensure the highest possible degree of safety in all kinds of nuclear installations, beginning with nuclear power plants. In this context, the Twelve reaffirm the primary responsibility of IAEA member States for the safety of nuclear installations located within their territories, and the value they attach to the support the Agency can give to member States in fulfilling their responsibilities. The impact of the Chernobyl accident has demonstrated the importance of international co-operation in nuclear safety.

With regard to the follow-up to the work of IAEA missions which are assessing the radiological consequences of Chernobyl, the Twelve look forward to the early publication of their conclusions. They are participating actively in the current studies on the safety conditions of nuclear power plants in Eastern European countries. The European Community and its member States are considering with particular attention the important changes in Central and Eastern Europe, which are opening the way to new co-operation, in particular, in the area of nuclear safety. The Twelve recognize their duty of solidarity towards those Central and Eastern European countries which requested our experience and assistance.

This solidarity manifests itself in the prominent role of the Community and its member States in a programme of assistance for economic reconstruction for certain Central and Eastern European countries. One important sector of the programme concerns the provision of technical and financial resources for the improvement of the safety of nuclear power plants in the countries concerned.

At the same time, however, the Twelve reaffirm the responsibility of those countries for implementing the recommendations concerning their nuclear power plants.

(Mr. Traxler, Italy)

The Twelve have noted with satisfaction the increase in the last few years of missions of the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART), the Radiation Protection Advisory Team (RAPAT) and the Waste Management Advisory Programme (WAMAP) and the recent more frequent use of missions of the Analysis of Safety-Significant Events Team (ASSET). They consider that this trend reflects an awareness that efforts invested in safety and radiation protection contribute effectively to achieving the objectives set out in article II of the statute of the Agency.

The Twelve also recognize the importance of further developing research on improvement of nuclear safety, environmental protection and design of all reactor types, including new reactor types.

As acknowledged by the European Council in last June's Dublin Declaration on nuclear non-proliferation, the Twelve wish to stress once again the indispensable role of the Agency in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the paramount importance of IAEA safeguards in ensuring the effectiveness of the non-proliferation régime, as well as the important contribution made in this connection by the safeguards system of the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM). The Declaration called for the application of safeguards on as universal a basis as possible, and expressed concern about the continuing risk that more countries may acquire nuclear weapons. The Declaration also called on all States to join in efforts to eliminate the danger of nuclear proliferation.

The Twelve member States of the European Community, parties or non-parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, are committed to permitting access to countries which request it to the benefits of nuclear energy, through equitable and stable regulations on international trade and in compliance with international obligations on non-proliferation. They are, in fact, convinced that the possibility of access to nuclear energy is only to be considered within the framework of such international regulations and obligations. The Twelve have adhered to the nuclear

(Mr. Traxler, Italy)

suppliers' guidelines on exports, and have accepted international safeguards on their peaceful installations. Therefore, they hope that progress will be based on the following two principles: equitable and stable regulations for international trade in nuclear materials and equipment; and international commitments to non-proliferation by the recipient countries.

The Twelve are emphasizing their full support for the non-proliferation objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the IAEA statute, by making the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear energy available to all States. They will continue to play an active part in the Agency and to support its initiatives. They attach particular importance to the Agency's safeguards system, which is of general benefit to the international community. Accordingly, they recall their desire that all non-nuclear-weapon States place all of their nuclear facilities under safeguards.

The Twelve have also take note with satisfaction of the declaration contained in the 1989 annual report to the effect that the Agency, in carrying out its safeguards obligations, did not detect any event which could indicate the diversion of safeguarded nuclear material for the manufacture of nuclear weapons or for purposes unknown.

Other important events have taken place in the last few months, which are bound to have an impact on future Agency activities. We are referring to the Fourth Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Although the Twelve regret that the Conference was not able to reach agreement on a final document, it did permit a thorough review of the implementation of the Treaty. It is particularly important that the material produced in Main Committees II and III be analysed by the Agency with utmost attention.

(Mr. Traxler, Italy)

In this connection the Twelve look forward to reinforcing the role of the Agency as a major guarantor of an effective non-proliferation régime. The European Community and its member States will do their part to ensure that the Agency continues to make a vital contribution to dialogue and co-operation in all regions of the world.

In this context the European Community and its member States underline the high priority they assign to the whole spectrum of IAEA activities in the field of scientific and technical co-operation. The 1989 annual report records a further increase of funds devoted to technical assistance and co-operation programmes which, for the first time, reached a total of $50 million. As they are among the major contributors to these programmes the Twelve are proud of these attainments. Furthermore, the Agency's technical assistance programmes are useful reminders that, in addition to the power applications of nuclear energy, nuclear techniques are increasingly being used to combat disease and improve human welfare in many parts of the world. As was just recently recalled by the representative of the United States, the involvement of the Agency in the programme for the eradication of the New World Screwworm from North Africa is a case in point. The valuable contribution being made by the Agency in promoting research activities and transfer of science and technology through its International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste and the Seibersdorf and Monaco Laboratories is highly appreciated by the Twelve.

Let me conclude by stating the firm wish of the European Community and its member States that the close co-operation which exists at present between them and the Agency will continue to develop successfully.

Mr. KUKAN (Czechoslovakia): The annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the year 1989 now before us, which was introduced by the Agency's Director General, Mr. Hans Blix, in his usual interesting and highly inspiring fashion, describes in a lucid and comprehensible way the wide range of the Agency's activities, as well as the undoubtedly positive and, in numerous cases, even outstanding results achieved by the IAEA during the past year in the discharge of its statutory functions. The report indicates that the Agency is coping in a competent fashion with the problems and tasks generated by developments in the field of nuclear energy.

(Mr. Kukan, Czechoslovakia)

The General Conference of the Agency, while appreciating the successes, also addressed the persistent problems and obstacles that impose limitations on the Agency's activities. The most serious of these problems are those relating to the funding of the individual areas of the Agency's activity.

The report of the Director-General of the Agency on measures to intensify international co-operation in matters of nuclear safety approved by the 34th General Conference of the IAEA is, in our view, an important document, formulating in clear terms the strategy for international co-operation in this field in the 1990s. The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic approves that strategy and the new initiatives for handling the crucial safety issues in the coming years. By the same token, we agree with the conclusion that both the extent and the effectiveness of the assistance provided by the Agency to the member States should be further increased.

We value, among other things, the enhancement of the Agency's services aimed at improving the operational safety of nuclear power plants, of which the Operational Safety Review Teams (OSART) are an example; because of their high degree of professionalism and objectivity, these enjoy an excellent reputation.

We welcome the approval of a broad extrabudgetary project to for improvement of the safety of older types of nuclear reactor, which in the initial phase will focus on reactors of a type in operation in one of Czechoslovakia's nuclear power stations.

Czechoslovakia supports the Agency's activities and its new projects aimed at defining in objective terms the role of nuclear energy as it changes against the background of growing environmental threats. In our opinion, the ideas voiced on this subject by Dr. Blix at the General Conference of the Agency deserve everyone's attention and should prompt responses at the national level.

(Mr. Kukan, Czechoslovakia)

In the spirit of its new foreign policy, Czechoslovakia has this year taken several steps aimed at facilitating safeguards activities and helping to increase their effectiveness. In this context, my country has accepted the simplified procedure of designation of the Agency's safeguards inspectors.

With reference to today's speech by the Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Hans Blix, I would like to announce that, as from 15 August this year a visa-free travel régime has been in force for staff members of the organizations of the United Nations system - that is, for holders of United Nations laissez-passer coming to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on official business.

In the context of the process of introducing economic reform in Czechoslovakia the nuclear energy programme, too, is being reconsidered, in an effort to meet not only the energy needs of the country's economy but also the demands of both Czechoslovak and the world public in respect of the conservation and improvement of the environment. The objective is to determine the optimum scale of nuclear-based power generation, taking account of both the potential risks and the favourable effects the use of nuclear energy can have for the environment.

We are gradually introducing a strategy marked by growing emphasis on a consistent pursuit of measures aimed at ensuring the safety of existing as well as of future nuclear power stations. In so doing, the Czechoslovak Government will take into consideration, among other things, the outcome of the examination to be carried out by the Agency's teams of experts - OSART - on the old types of reactors at the Czechoslovak nuclear power plant at Bohunice. With a view to obtaining equipment which will meet higher technological and safety standards, we propose to invite the leading manufacturers from all over the world to bid for equipment supply contracts for future Czechoslovak nuclear power stations; we are abandoning our orientation on the USSR as our sole source of supply.

(Mr. Kukan, Czechoslovakia)

We are also beginning to give intensive consideration to the subject of the long-term storage of spent fuel on our territory. In this field too, we see an opportunity for co-operation with the Agency, especially through involvement in its Waste Management Advisory Programme.

In this connection, I cannot fail to make at least a brief comment on the opinion that energy conservation and wider use of alternative sources of energy will make it possible to reduce the amount of fossil fuel burnt and to renounce nuclear energy. On this subject, I believe that something Dr. Blix said in one of his official statements was very much to the point. He said:

"We need to escape from the greenhouse, yes, but we need also to escape from the dreamhouse".

What I have just said should not be taken to mean that we intend to go to the other extreme and regard nuclear energy as a panacea offering a simple remedy both for the energy shortage and for the threat of the greenhouse effect. We simply share the view that nuclear energy may be one of the possible alternatives in the effort to deal with the energy shortage and the threat of global warming.

We are confident that the IAEA will contribute towards clarifying these issues through its programme of assessment of the comparative risks of different sources of energy. The symposium on energy and the environment scheduled to take place in May 1991 with the Agency as a sponsor will in our view be another important step in this direction. The outcome of the symposium may be a valuable asset for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which is to be held in 1992.

We all know of the Agency's role in the non-proliferation régime, based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and exercised through the Agency's safeguards system. It is commendable that the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons expressed

(Mr. Kukan, Czechoslovakia)

confidence in, and reaffirmed the growing importance of, the safeguards system. This position had the full support of the delegation of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. In the course of that Conference, proposals were made to improve safeguards implementation; these will certainly be thoroughly analysed in the near future by the Agency's secretariat and its safeguards advisory body.

Czechoslovakia advocates conceptual amendment of the IAEA safeguards system. As early as 1988, my country put forward its own ideas about how the system could be made still more effective through a selective approach to its application. We are gratified to note that this idea is now being developed by experts in the Agency's secretariat.

I will conclude my statement with a brief outline of our expectations with regard to the prospects for international co-operation within the IAEA.

We welcome the beginning of work of drafting the Agency's first medium-term plan, to cover the years 1993 to 1998. The drafting of the plan, which is to be a basically a strategic document, will not be easy, given that in an organization with 113 members it is inevitable that there will be differing opinions on the relative importance of the Agency's objectives and functions and on the distribution of resources among the different areas of its activity.

(Mr. Kukan, Czechoslovakia)

We approve of the format and the scenario for the drawing up of the medium-term plan as proposed by Mr. Blix. We believe that within this framework a new assessment of priorities can be made in an effective manner, and we are therefore prepared to take an active part in the elaboration of the plan. In so doing, we intend to uphold the opinion that nuclear energy can be a safe, clean and competitive alternative to other sources of energy; as such, it maintains a position of importance also in the new concept of the economic development of Czechoslovakia.

Since its founding the International Atomic Energy Agency has played a central part in the encouragement of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In our opinion, it is self-evident that, as economic and environmental questions acquire global dimensions in an ever-increasing measure, the role of the Agency grows increasingly important.

The world now finds itself in a period marked by momentous positive changes in the international system. Nevertheless, concerns for international peace and stability are still felt, especially in the light of the developments in the Middle East. Thus, the importance of the Agency's second function - serving as an institutional barrier to the proliferation of nuclear weapons - also remains undiminished and, in fact, is becoming even more important.

The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic appreciates the results achieved by the Agency under the leadership of Mr. Hans Blix in the period under review and wishes to reaffirm its support for the Agency's continued activities.

Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria): I should like at the outset to express the Bulgarian Government's appreciation to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Blix, for the excellent quality - which has become traditional - of the annual report on the work of the Agency, for 1989. Further, I should like to reiterate our intention to continue to support the efforts of the Agency aimed at contributing to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the name of the well-being of all nations and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. I should also like to express our gratitude to the IAEA for its support and for the excellent co-operation it maintains with my country.

It appears that in conditions of insufficient and rapidly depleting hydro- and fossil-energy resources, Bulgaria will continue to give prominence to its nuclear option as far as its power-generation industry is concerned. Nuclear power generation, however, can play a beneficial social role only if the highest security standards are met both in the construction and in the operational phases of the installations. No one in Bulgaria has any doubts about that. The Bulgarian public and particularly environmental groups and movements take an active interest in the possible ecological and human health implications of the national power generation policy. They show particular interest in the safety of the operating power stations as well as those that are now under construction. We also believe that the concern about these issues expressed outside our country is natural.

I should like to emphasize from this rostrum that the Bulgarian society is an open and democratic society that will do everything necessary to find the most appropriate solution to this issue, giving top priority to the safety of the nuclear installations and the security of the people. We maintain broad

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

co-operation with the IAEA in that area. At this very moment, for example, a group of IAEA experts is evaluating the nuclear power stations in Kozlodui and Belene. The group is expected to provide an independent and objective expert assessment of the technical state and future use of those stations. This assessment will certainly assist my Government in the course of decision-making on the future use of nuclear power plants in Bulgaria.

We continue to subscribe to the view that the respective national institutions are responsible for the security of the nuclear installations. At the same time, however, I should like to point out that we are very interested in bilateral and multilateral co-operation in this field. We should like to participate in the work of the new Engineering Safety Service, as well as in the newly established extrabudgetary project on the security of older reactors. My country attaches particular importance to and places serious hopes in missions of the Operational Safety Review Teams and the work of the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group. I should also like to underline our interest in and support for the IAEA efforts in respect of the disposal of nuclear waste. These problems require close international co-operation and, in this connection, we welcome the promising commencement of the work of the International Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee.

Bulgaria reiterates its conviction that even more efficient use should be made of the IAEA safeguards system, which is a basic component of the effective international régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Discussions at the Fourth Review Conference of the parties to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty further demonstrated the Treaty's fundamental role in the non-proliferation cause, as well as the fact that it offers sufficient scope for broad international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

Bulgaria has placed its entire nuclear activities under the Agency safeguards and has every reason to hope that all States not possessing nuclear arms will voluntarily place their nuclear installations under the IAEA safeguards system. We welcome the fact that during the inspections carried out by the Agency in 1989 no significant violation was found that might indicate misuse of nuclear materials or facilities with the aim of producing nuclear weapons.

In conclusion, I should once again again like to express the Bulgarian Government's appreciation for the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency and our support for the further development of international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Our aim is to broaden our co-operation with the Agency, and my country is prepared to do everything in its power for the strengthening of the Agency and the further enhancement of its international prestige.

Mr. TÖRNUDD (Finland): My delegation wishes to congratulate the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Hans Blix, on the clear and concise report to the General Assembly concerning the activities of the Agency in 1989. His statement today introducing the report brought into focus not only a number of pertinent aspects of the Agency's activities but also the international situation bearing on the Agency's field of activities.

The Director General draws our attention to the recent developments in the region of the Persian Gulf and to the consequences that this may have on the overall energy supply. It is evident that the oil-consuming part of the world once again has been taken by surprise. Like so many other countries, Finland also let itself be lulled into a false sense of security by the many years of calm in the oil market. The economic recession into which the world seems to be heading is certainly not a product of the rise in oil prices, but it will be aggravated by the increase in energy costs. In recent years environmental arguments have led to wider acceptance of nuclear power; now nuclear power has one more and very potent argument in its favour, the economic advantage. My country's energy consumption has reached a point where a decision will have to be made as to how energy demand will be met in the future. The alternatives are very few - nuclear or fossil.

Against this background my Government attaches great importance to the symposium on electricity and environment to be held in Helsinki in 1991. As it is being supported by 10 various United Nations and other organizations the conference should be able to produce independent opinions on the environmental effects of different sources for electric power. The fact that the IAEA takes part in the symposium as one organization among others will underline the neutral' y of the symposium. We hope that this co-operation on energy questions will continue within the United Nations system and that in that connection all energy sources will be considered on their own merits.

(Mr. Törnudd, Finland)

The operation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was reviewed recently for the fourth time. The review was thorough and progress was made with regard to a number of important issues, particularly in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. For example, there is now broad agreement on the need for full-scope safeguards as a condition for exports of nuclear material, equipment and technology in significant quantities. My delegation considers this an important step forward.

The progress made at the Fourth Review Conference should be followed up in other international forums, the International Atomic Energy Agency in particular. As appropriate, States could also adopt recommendations made at the Conference as guidelines for their national policies.

In this connection we note with great satisfaction that the safeguards activities of the Agency have continued almost unperturbed by the financial constraints under which the Agency is working. Partly this is due to progress made in developing the safeguards techniques and procedures, a work which we would like to see intensified. However, despite all the laudable efforts of the Agency's able staff, this cannot but postpone the moment when the financing of safeguards must be increased. My country has repeatedly voiced the opinion that the member States of the Agency should be able first to decide on what they want the Agency to perform and with what priorities and then settle the budget accordingly. With the present budgetary constraints the order tends to be the opposite. We hope that in connection with the preparation of its medium-term plan the Agency will manage to penetrate and solve the questions involved, inter alia, by evaluating the achievements under the present programme.

My Government sees the work of the Agency on reactor safety as one of the main tasks of the Agency. No other form of international co-operation can be a

(Mr. Törnudd, Finland)

substitute for this work. The Director General gave two excellent examples of ongoing work in this field: analysis of the after-effects of the Chernobyl accident; and evaluation of the safety of older-generation reactors. These projects, both of great importance, are financed through extrabudgetary means although it should be evident to all that this kind of work must be at the very centre of the Agency's activities. It must be made possible to finance such undertakings within the budget - either by changing priorities or by allowing for reasonable growth in the Agency's budget.

Technical co-operation is, alongside safeguards and safety questions, one of the three corner-stones of the Agency's activities. The financing of technical co-operation through voluntary contributions has functioned satisfactorily and the programme for technical co-operation has steadily grown while its importance to the member States has increased. Also, in the future great care should be taken to ensure that the Agency's programmes fit harmoniously within national development plans and the activities of other organizations. Nuclear energy is not an end in itself, only a means to reach certain results.

I have touched upon just a few of the Agency's many activities. The Agency is fulfilling its tasks in an admirable manner and we extend our thanks to its Director General and all his staff for a work well done. But this does not mean that we should disregard the problems lying ahead in the form of growing financial difficulties. These will have to be tackled very soon if we are to avoid a negative development in the Agency's activities.

Ms. COURTNEY (Australia): The Australian delegation would like to express also its appreciation of the statement made by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Hans Blix, and of the report of the IAEA.

(Ms. Courtney, Australia)

Australia, as a founding member, has long been a strong supporter of the Agency and its statute. This derives not only from our commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons but also because of our responsibilities as a uranium exporter. Fundamental to that commitment and those responsibilities is our continuing strong support for the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the role the Agency plays in support of that Treaty.

In this context the Agency's safeguards system is of central importance. It is at the core of the arrangements established by the international community to provide the necessary assurance that peaceful-use obligations are being met. It is also an indispensable factor underpinning world nuclear trade and co-operation in the development of nuclear power to meet global energy needs. For these reasons it is important that safeguards continue to be funded from the regular budget on a reliable basis.

Australia welcomes the recent conclusion of safeguards agreements with Kiribati, Malta and Togo and urges all Non-Proliferation Treaty parties that have not done so to negotiate the required INFCIRC/153 agreements with the Agency as soon as possible. We are particularly concerned that one NPT State which is operating an unsafeguarded nuclear facility and which became a party to the Treaty almost five years ago has not yet concluded the requisite safeguards agreement. We hope this situation will be rectified expeditiously by the State concerned.

(Ms. Courtney, Australia)

The Fourth Review Conference of the NPT concluded recently in Geneva. It was disappointing that despite widespread agreement among members on most of the issues before the Conference it was not possible to adopt a final document. But positive trends were evident. Some of the more important areas where agreements of relevance to the Agency's work were pinned down were: a common understanding on future priorities for peaceful nuclear co-operation, including in particular the needs of the least developed countries; concrete proposals for the strengthening of the barriers against the further spread of nuclear weapons; proposals for addressing situations where questions have been raised about a State's commitment to non-proliferation undertakings, including the idea that the IAEA could carry out special inspections under paragraphs 73 and 74 of INFCIRC/153 in the event of any doubts arising; suggestions for future IAEA activity relating to special fissionable material; and, perhaps most significantly, consensus on the need for nuclear suppliers to contribute fully to the non-proliferation goal by requiring in future that nuclear supply take place only when accompanied by a legally binding commitment to non-proliferation and the application of full-scope safeguards. The overwhelming majority of suppliers have already taken action unilaterally to this effect, and we hope that the small number of suppliers that have not done so will take early action in response to discussions at the Review Conference.

The Review Conference has provided a solid basis for a successful conference in 1995, the prime purpose of which will be to extend the Treaty either indefinitely or for an additional fixed period or periods.

In the years of its operation the NPT has contributed greatly to enhancing global stability and security for both members and non-members alike. Australia is concerned that a number of countries with significant nuclear activities remain outside the NPT, and we call on them to accede at the earliest possible date. I

(Ms. Courtney, Australia)

the Middle East, where recent events demonstrate further the very serious potential for conflict, the dangers of nuclear proliferation are only too obvious. It is therefore important that all States in the Middle East join the NPT and accept full-scope safeguards on all their activities. In this regard States Parties to the NPT should demonstrate by their actions and statements their clear commitment to its objectives.

An essential part of the work of the IAEA is nuclear technical assistance and co-operation. Australia will continue to meet its assessed voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, as well as to provide considerable extrabudgetary contributions, especially to the regional co-operative agreement for Asia and the Pacific.

Over the past year Australia has provided a wide variety of assistance through training schemes and in other areas.

In conclusion, the IAEA is one of the most efficient and effective of the United Nations bodies. It is held in the highest regard in the international community, and this is in no small measure due to the work of Mr. Blix and the secretariat. The Agency can count on Australia's continued support in the challenging time ahead.

Mr. ERFAN (Egypt): I should like to begin by reiterating our appreciation, which we have expressed on numerous occasions, to Mr. Hans Blix, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for his excellent performance, and that of his colleagues, in conducting the work of the Agency.

We wish to thank him, too, for the very important statement that he delivered this morning while introducing this year's report. We reiterate our support for the Agency, and in particular its work in the fields of safeguards, technical assistance, nuclear safety and radiological protection. We emphasize that these

(Mr. Erfan, Egypt)

are the crucial factors in ensuring the success of the developing countries in developing and implementing nuclear programmes and technologies designed for peaceful uses and to guarantee that these technologies make the maximum contribution to their economic growth and development.

A very good demonstration of the Agency's role in technical assistance - which my delegation wishes to highlight - was apparent in the very useful contribution the Agency has made to the preparatory work relating to the establishment of a regional co-operation agreement for the member States in Africa. We share the Agency's view that this agreement will truly augment its role in technical co-operation in Africa and we believe that this will be to the benefit of the continent.

The presence of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in the Middle East, the non-adherence of Israel to the non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the recent tragic events in the Gulf region have given added weight to the argument that advocates the crucial importance of devising measures to assure that the nuclear programmes and installations in the area are exclusively for peaceful purposes. A first step in this direction we believe, would be to apply the IAEA safeguards to all nuclear installations in the region, without exception, a request that has been made and repeatedly reiterated by the General Assembly in its resolutions concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. We are pleased to see in this regard that the General Conference of the Agency has renewed the mandate of the Director General to conduct further consultations with the States of the region with a view to applying Agency safeguards to all nuclear installations in the region. We hope that he will receive the support and co-operation of all parties in this regard.

I should like to conclude by saying that, without prejudice to the very fine work carried out by the Agency, as is the case for all bodies within the United

(Mr. Erfan, Egypt)

Nations system, the changing times and momentous developments in the world community must be taken fully into account by the Agency. One area in which we believe it could make an invaluable contribution is in developing verification procedures for the disarmament agreements that are being or have recently been concluded, particularly those of a regional or multilateral character.

Finally, we hope that the members of the Agency will give serious consideration to the issue.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/45/L.9.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt that draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/45/L.9 was adopted (resolution 45/7).

The PRESIDENT: Before I call on representatives wishing to explain their position, may I remind them that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. KENET (Israel): My delegation did not wish to break the consensus on draft resolution A/45/L.9. However, had there been a vote paragraph by paragraph my delegation would have voted against the last preambular paragraph.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 14.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.